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FOR RELEASE:

Friday May 12, 2006

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PRESS RELEASE

270 Macedonian school directors complete U.S.-funded certification program

Two hundred seventy school directors from throughout the country recently completed demanding professional certification training, as required by a new Macedonian law. This achievement makes them the first certified school directors in the Republic of Macedonia.

Minister of Education and Science Aziz Pollozhani, and USAID Mission Director Dick Goldman congratulated the newly-certified school directors at a ceremony held today.

"Many directors came to the program with years of experience and have demonstrated that they are good educational managers," said Goldman. "This training program was designed to teach new principles of management, and to prepare directors to meet increased responsibilities resulting from the decentralization of education."

The certification program was developed by a Macedonian team that visited the Slovenian School of Directors and then adapted their model for use in Macedonia. A training program was designed and conducted, and a certification examination was administered by the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES).

As part of the certification process, the school directors were required to write and present six seminar papers on educational topics of professional interest.

The project was implemented by the Secondary Education Activity (SEA) Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.. The certification program will continue, with training provided by institutions accredited by the MoES. It is open to all interested candidates who aspire to be school directors.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>